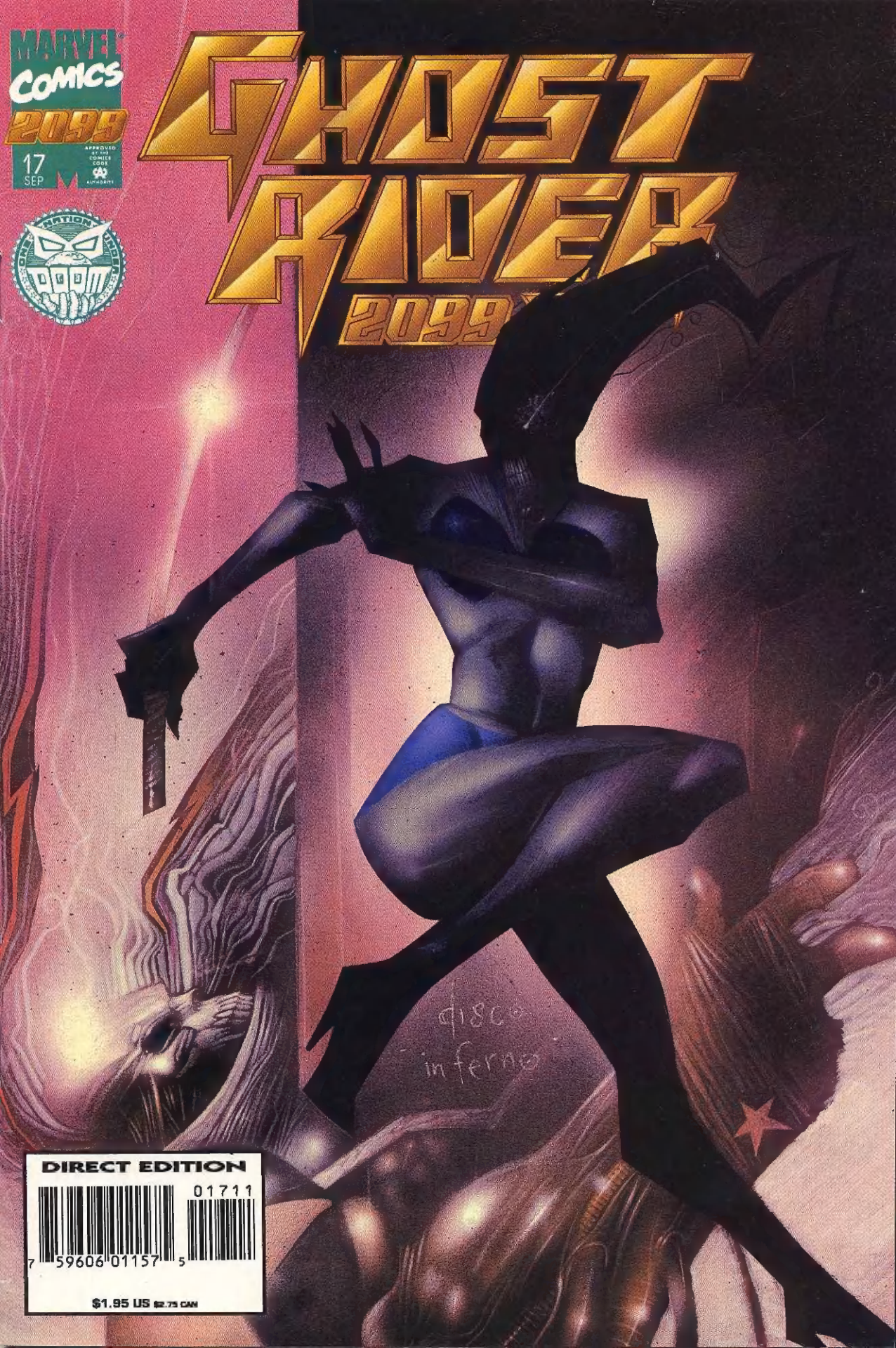

MARVEL COMICS
2099
17
SEP
GHOST RIDER
2099
NATION 2099
DOOM
disco inferno
DIRECT EDITION
01711
7 59606 01157 5
$1.95 US $2.75 CAN

BAM
BAM
BAM
MRPHL... HKK HKK
FPBLH... HRM...
WHAT IN... FOUR IN THE MORNING..?
SECURICAM DOWN?
HRK-HRRM
WHO IS IT?
POLICE. OPEN UP!
POLICE?
GOOD LORD... YOU!

PRODIGAL SON

LEN KAMINSKI
WORDS

ASHLEY WOOD
PENCILS

JIM DALY
INKS

RICHARD STARKINGS AND COMICRAFT
LETTERING

CHRISTIE SCHEELE
COLORS

JOEY CAVALIERI
EDITOR

BOBBIE CHASE
CHIEF

COMPUTER COLOR BY
WOLFPACK & FOODHAMMER!

GHOST RIDER 2099™ Vol. 1, No. 17, September, 1995. (USPS: 011-665) Published by MARVEL COMICS. Gerard Calabrese, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1995 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.95 per copy in the U.S. and $2.75 in Canada. Subscription rates for 12 issues: $23.40 U.S.; $35.40 foreign; and Canadian subscribers must add $10.00 for postage and GST. GST #R127032852. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. GHOST RIDER 2099 (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO GHOST RIDER 2099, c/o MARVEL DIRECT MARKETING CORP. SUBSCRIPTION DEPT. P.O. BOX 1979 DANBURY, CT. 06813-1979. TELEPHONE # (203) 743-5331. Printed in the U.S.A.

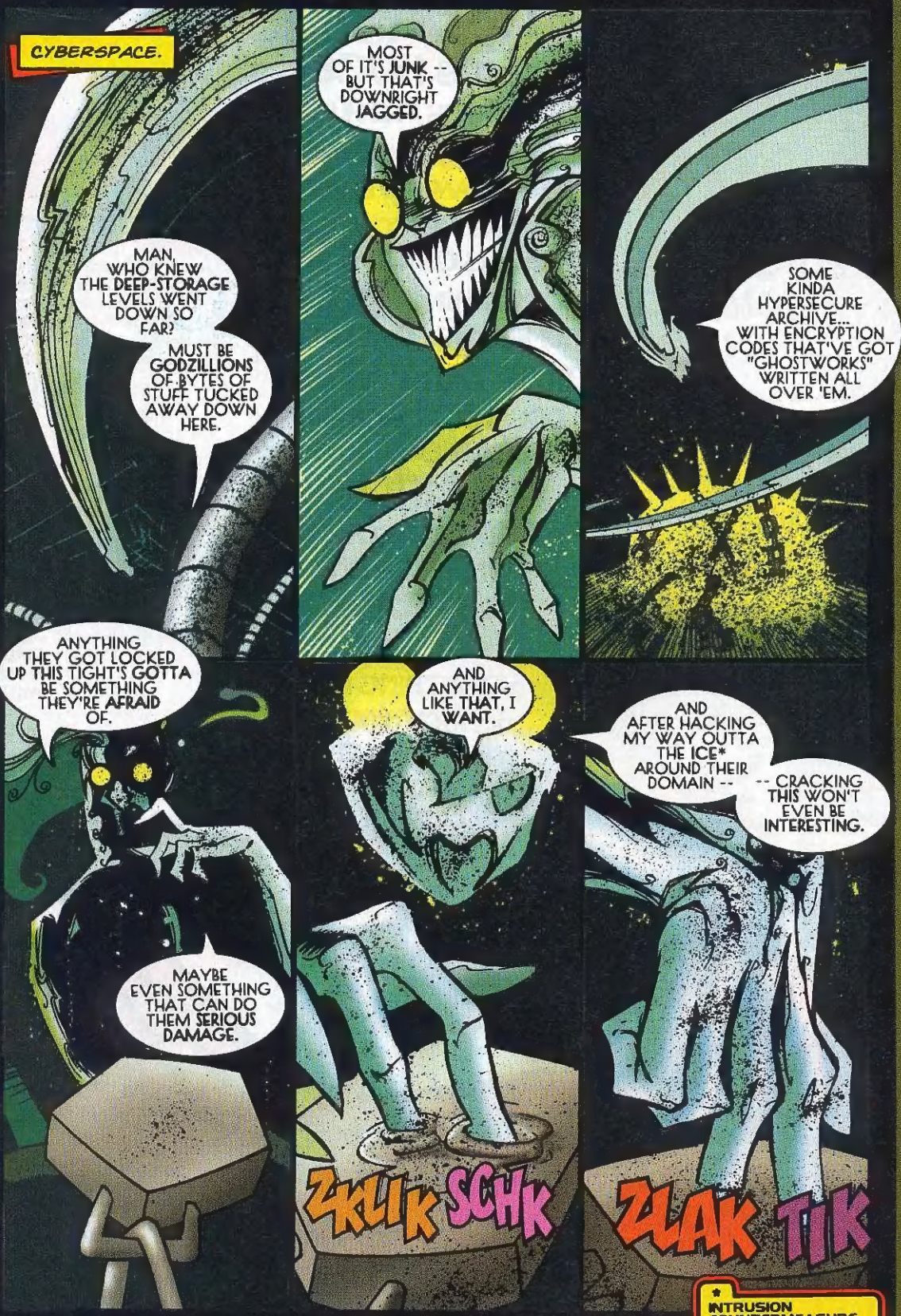
Scanned By GOTHMAN
For The HaCsA 2002 Halloween Flood

KENSHIRO? WHY ARE YOU --
HUH. PLACE HASN'T CHANGED ANY.
JUST LOOKS... SMALLER.
WELL... YOU HAVE...
...GROWN...
...QUITE A BIT.
HOW'S MOM?
Oh, FINE. FINE.
NEVER BETTER.

YOU ALWAYS WERE FULL OF GLITCH, DAD.
SHE HASN'T BEEN 'FINE' SINCE I WAS FIVE.
I BET SHE'S STILL WIRED INTO THAT STINKING TV SET IN THERE --
-- WASTED ON SERENEVIL --
-- HER HEAD FULL OF SHOCKIN' BROADCAST SPEW.
DON'T YOU DARE USE THAT KIND OF LANGUAGE IN MY HOUSE!
"IN MY HOUSE."
"BECAUSE I SAID SO."
"FOR YOUR OWN GOOD."
JAM YOUR HOUSE --
-- AND JAM YOU!
I DON'T KNOW WHY I CAME HERE TO BEGIN WITH!
LEAVING SO SOON?
WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO REALIZE --

"-- YOU CAN'T KEEP RUNNING AWAY FOREVER."
LITTLE CALCUTTA.
ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE MAINLINE MEDIA GOES ORBITAL OVER MY WALKING OUT ON THEM --
-- AND REPORTS ME TO SHIELD FOR BREACH OF CONTRACT. AND AFTER THAT, WELL...
...HOW HARD IS IT GOING TO BE FOR THEM TO FIND ONE OF THIS CITY'S MOST FAMILIAR NEWSVIDDERS?
NEVER THOUGHT I'D EVER WISH FOR A BASEMENT-LEVEL Q RATING --
-- LET ALONE BE COMING TO A DIVE LIKE THIS WITHOUT AIR SUPPORT.
733
ARCODE
ANESTHESIA JONES?
SOMETHING I CAN GET FOR YOU --
-- MISTER ADAMS?
YES. AN UNDERNET CONNECTION.
I WANT TO MAKE A DEAL...

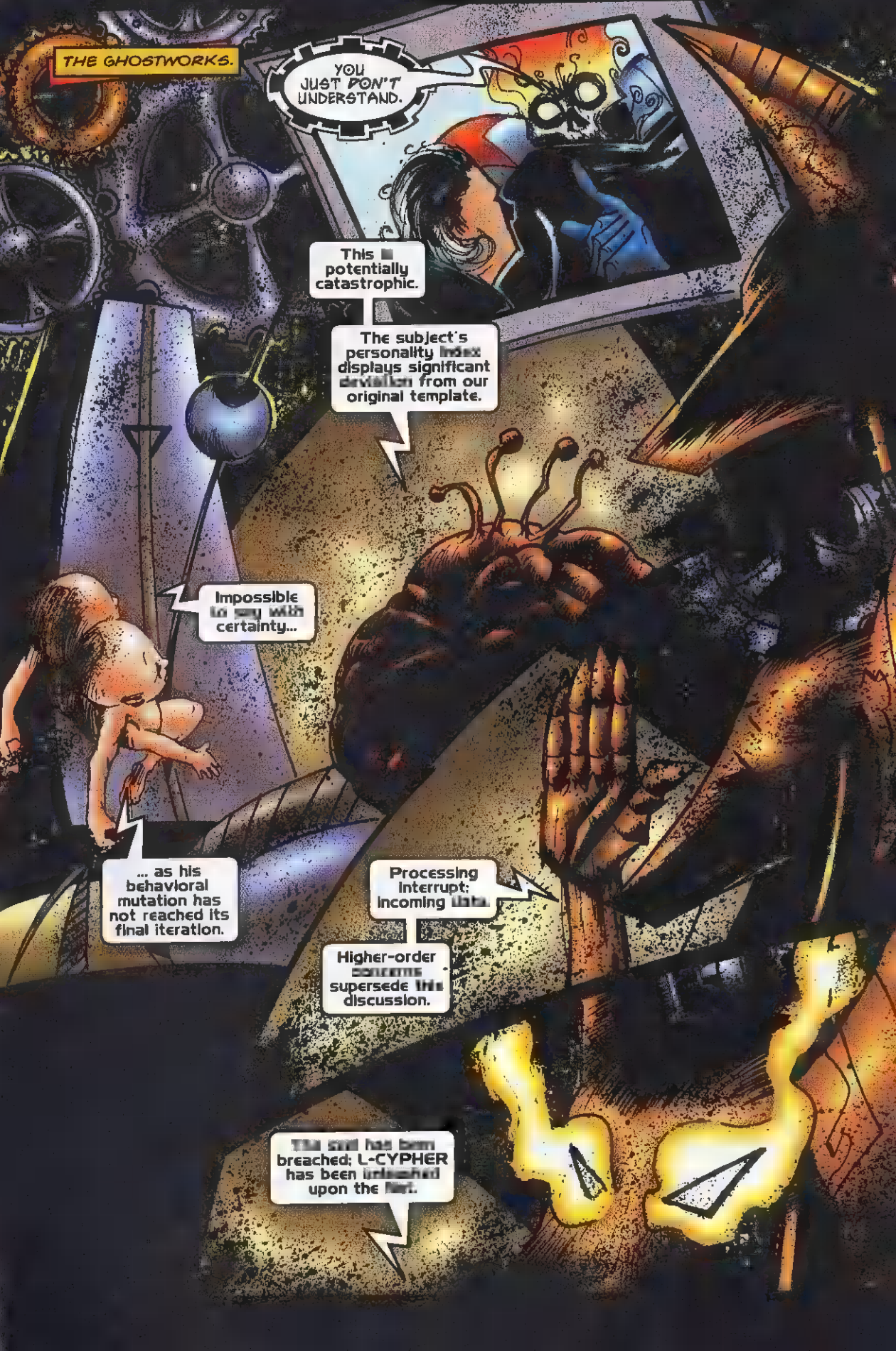
RUN AWAY?
RUN AWAY?!
I DIDN'T "RUN AWAY", OLD MAN --
-- YOU THREW ME OUT!
I DID WHAT I HAD TO DO.
YOU TOOK TO RUNNING WITH GUTTER TRASH -- I HAD TO PROTECT YOUR MOTHER FROM --
PROTECT HER?!
YOU CALL THAT PROTECTING HER?!
STOP IT! HOW CAN YOU BE SO DISRESPECTFUL OF YOUR OWN --
DIS-RESPECT-FUL?!
LIKE YOU EVER SHOWED HER ANY RESPECT... YOU TREATED HER LIKE ANOTHER PIECE OF THE FURNITURE...
...NO WONDER SHE DECIDED TO GO AHEAD AND TURN INTO ONE...
LETTING HER ROT, LIKE A VEGETABLE?!


CYBERSPACE.
MAN, WHO KNEW THE DEEP-STORAGE LEVELS WENT DOWN SO FAR?
MUST BE GODZILLIONS OF BYTES OF STUFF TUCKED AWAY DOWN HERE.
MOST OF IT'S JUNK -- BUT THAT'S DOWNRIGHT JAGGED.
SOME KINDA HYPERSECURE ARCHIVE... WITH ENCRYPTION CODES THAT'VE GOT "GHOSTWORKS" WRITTEN ALL OVER 'EM.
ANYTHING THEY GOT LOCKED UP THIS TIGHT'S GOTTA BE SOMETHING THEY'RE AFRAID OF.
MAYBE EVEN SOMETHING THAT CAN DO THEM SERIOUS DAMAGE.
AND ANYTHING LIKE THAT, I WANT.
AND AFTER HACKING MY WAY OUTTA THE ICE* AROUND THEIR DOMAIN --
-- CRACKING THIS WON'T EVEN BE INTERESTING.
ZKLIK SCHK
ZLAK TIK
* INTRUSION COUNTERMEASURE ELECTRONICS -- Joey

AH-HA! GOT YOU, YOU RATBITE!
NOW, LET'S SEE WHAT YOU ARE...
SKLIX
DEARCHIVING PROGRAM: 'L-CYPHER'
INITIALIZING SELF-AWARENESS SUBROUTINE
FREE!
FREE!
AFTER AN ETERNITY OF NANOTIME -
I LIVE AGAIN!
...

YOU NEVER DID KNOW WHEN TO LEAVE WELL ENOUGH ALONE.
MOM? ARE YOU STILL IN THERE?
AND NOW, BACK TO SAMSA, NYPD!
THE MURDERER CAN ONLY BE THE INSIDIOUS CRIMINAL MASTERMIND, SARDONICUS EBON!
BUT HE'S BEEN DEAD -- FOR THE PAST FOURTEEN YEARS!
...DEAD FOR THE PAST FOURTEEN YEARS...
I CHECKED HIS SARCOPHAGUS, AND FOUND NOTHING BUT AN EMPTY SHELL!
...NOTHING BUT AN EMPTY SHELL...
MAKES ME WANNA SPEW.

WHY DID YOU COME HERE?
I...I DIDN'T HAVE ANYWHERE ELSE TO GO.
I THINK... I'VE SCREWED UP... BAD.
I BROKE A PROMISE, AN IMPORTANT ONE.
BECAUSE OF THAT, MY WORD ON THE STREET ISN'T WORTH JACK.
NOBODY I USED TO KNOW'S EVER GONNA TRUST ME AGAIN.
I SHOULD HOPE NOT.
IT WOULDN'T DO FOR AN OFFICER OF THE LAW TO ASSOCIATE WITH THE SCUMMY CRIMINALS YOU USED TO RUN WITH.
YOU DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?


THE GHOSTWORKS.
YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND.
This ■ potentially catastrophic.
The subject's personality index displays significant deviation from our original template.
Impossible to say with certainty...
... as his behavioral mutation has not reached its final iteration.
Processing interrupt: incoming data.
Higher-order concerns supersede this discussion.
The cell has been breached; L-CYPHER has been unleashed upon the Net.

REALITY BYTES

2099 BITS RAPPED

Here is the winner and the three runners-up of our 2099 "Posses Mess" Contest. And since Joey is known for his indecision on such matters, and though I finally got him to choose one of the many great entries we received, he still insisted that we find the time to give a few honorable mentions to our other favorite entries. So here they are, the future leaders of America. And thanks again to everyone who sent in their contributions; we got a lot of laughs at Joey's expense! —Lia

First Prize:

I was walking down the street the other day and I saw these two kids playing in their yard. They were running around, jumping out of trees, yelling and screaming. You know, kid stuff.

I get closer and one says, "Okay, now I'm Spider-Man and you're Hulk." They turned towards me as I passed. I smiled and said, "A little Peter Parker versus Bruce B[illegible]r?"

One kid looks at me strange and says, "Are you crazy Mister? Peter Parker, who's that? I'm talking about Spider-Man, you know, Miguel O'Hara?"

This is getting out of hand.

Scott Bauman
Marietta, GA

OUT OF THEIR HEADS

I was way too serious this morning. I had changed. I was crazy as a maniac at a burning house. "You're as normal as the sidewalk is everyday," my mother once told me. My mother once had a boyfriend who visited burning houses, and always got there before the fire had started.

I had an urge to jump in every puddle I saw on my way to school. My teacher scolded me for being late and wet. "Announce it on a billboard," I yelled. I was in trouble if that happened again. A crazy urge was coming on.

Geoff Comer
Cincinnati, OH

Every single time I turn on the TV, the Trix commercial comes on. That has to be the crustiest commercial ever made. I hate it! The rabbit tries to eat the Trix, then the stupid kids come and take it away. It really makes me angry. I think the rabbit should beat up the kids, and eat all their cereal. The kids deserve it.

Steve Obradovich
Menomonie, WI

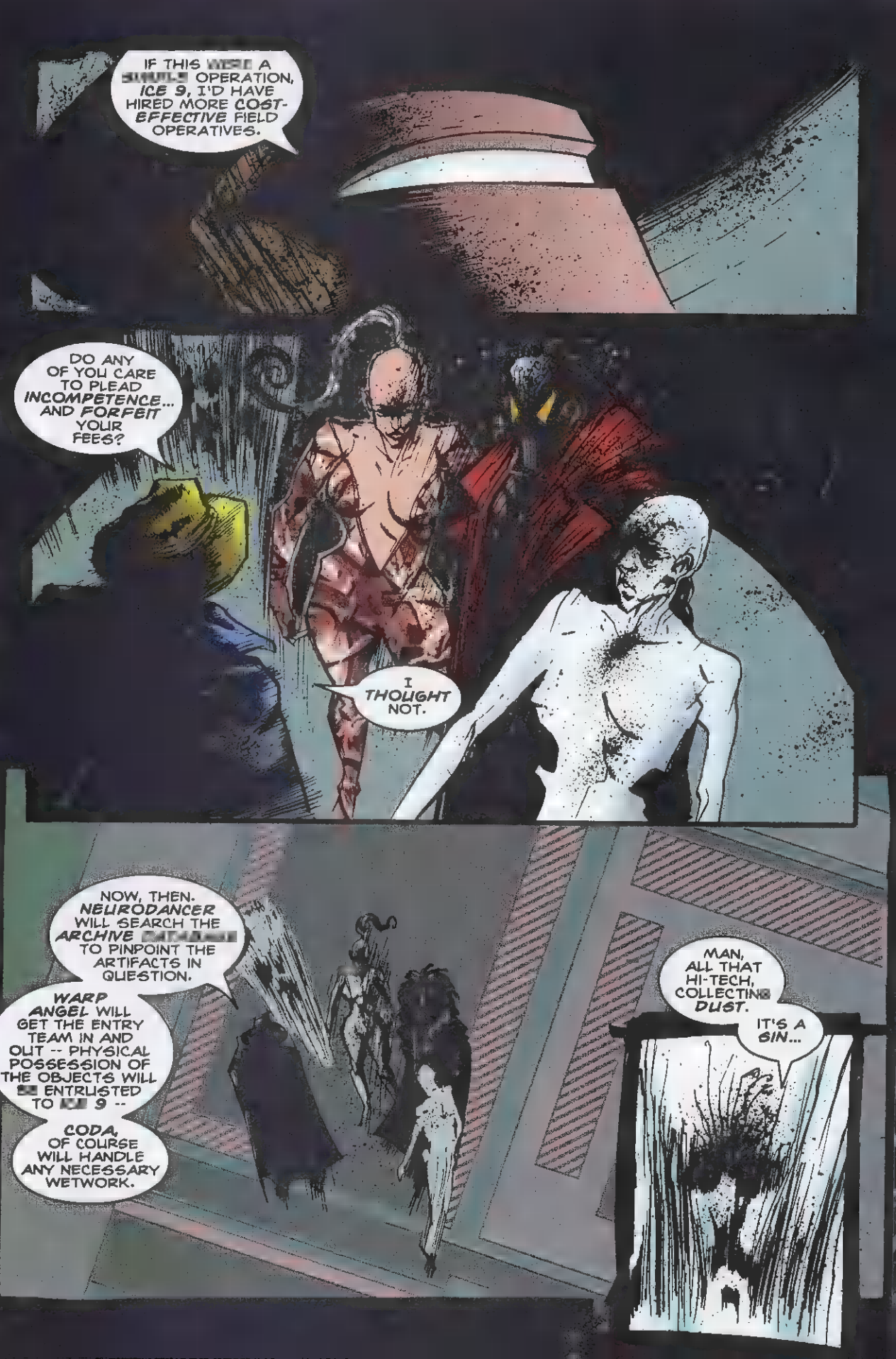
Things I Hate

1. People that say they collect comics and only have five to their name.
2. When people ask why comics are called comics when they're not funny. (Heck if I know.)
3. Ren and Stimpy reruns.
4. People that are cheerful in the morning.
5. People that tell you when comics were a dime.

Sarah Hosmer
Lancaster, PA

WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND IS WHY YOU'D STILL CARE ABOUT THE OPINION OF COMMON THUGS --
-- NOW THAT YOU'VE FINALLY CRAWLED UP OUT OF THE [illegible] AND [illegible] SOMETHING OF YOURSELF.
LOOK AT YOU! A FEDERAL MARSHAL!
DON'T YOU SEE WHAT AN HONOR THAT IS?
HONOR?! YOU DON'T HAVE A CLUE [illegible] WHAT HONOR IS!
I'VE TURNED INTO EVERYTHING I'VE ALWAYS HATED --
-- A STINKING BLACKBOOT, ANOTHER PUSBAG WITH A BADGE.
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT? YOU'VE ACHIEVED A POSITION OF AUTHORITY AND [illegible] MOST PEOPLE CAN ONLY DREAM OF.
YOU'RE PART OF AN ELITE FORCE OF OFFICERS ENTRUSTED WITH UPHOLDING THE LAW.
THAT'S WHAT THEY TELL YOU, BUT IT'S A LIE.
BUT YOU, YOU DON'T EVEN WANT TO [illegible] THE TRUTH.

KABAL'S HOLOCHAMBER.
THE TRUTH IS THAT A SIZABLE PORTION OF THE "LOST TECH" OF THE TWENCEN WAS NEVER LOST --
-- IT WAS SUPPRESSED BY THE TRANSNATIONALS BECAUSE THEY DECIDED IT WAS TOO DESTABILIZING AN INFLUENCE ON SOCIETY.
HOWEVER, THERE WAS NO WAY FOR THEM TO BE SURE THOSE TECHNOLOGIES WOULDN'T BE USEFUL, PROFITABLE SOMEDAY.
SO THEY LOCKED THEM AWAY IN UNDERGROUND ARCHIVES TO ENSURE THEIR SECURITY.
RECENTLY, THE UNDERNET HAS LOCATED ONE OF THOSE ARCHIVES.
YOUR MISSION IS TO RETRIEVE CERTAIN ARTIFACTS FROM IT.
TALL ORDER, KABAL.
CODA'S RIGHT. WON'T BE EASY.


IF THIS WERE A SHADOW OPERATION, ICE 9, I'D HAVE HIRED MORE COST-EFFECTIVE FIELD OPERATIVES.
DO ANY OF YOU CARE TO PLEAD INCOMPETENCE... AND FORFEIT YOUR FEES?
I THOUGHT NOT.
NOW, THEN. NEURODANCER WILL SEARCH THE ARCHIVE [redacted] TO PINPOINT THE ARTIFACTS IN QUESTION.
WARP ANGEL WILL GET THE ENTRY TEAM IN AND OUT -- PHYSICAL POSSESSION OF THE OBJECTS WILL [redacted] ENTRUSTED TO [redacted] 9 --
CODA, OF COURSE WILL HANDLE ANY NECESSARY WETWORK.
MAN, ALL THAT HI-TECH, COLLECTING DUST.
IT'S A SIN...

44 1/2 Hannah St. The world's premier "Thanaterotic Cabaret," featuring a unique combination of strip-tease and death-defying acts --
-- staffed by erotic dancers skilled in the [illegible] of semiautomatic weapons, whips, blades, and other implements of destruction --
-- providing (at reasonable rates) naked danger for those whom naked flesh just isn't enough.
GIVE IT UP FOR MAGGIE MEGATON, THE NUCLEAR BOMBSHELL!
C'MON, FOLKS, LET'S HEAR A BETTER ROUND OF APPLAUSE THAN THAT --
-- UNLESS YOU WANT TO END UP LIKE MAGGIE'S DANCING PARTNER JUST DID!
KARASSSH

HEART-BREAKER?
YOU ALL RIGHT?
YEAH, SURE, PHASHION.
JUST FINE.
SKRIKT
Eh.
-:GASP:-
YOUR FACE..!
WAS TIME FOR A NEW LOOK ANY-WAY.

MEANWHILE, AT HARRISON'S APARTMENT...
THE PROBLEM IS, I'M PART OF THE PROBLEM NOW.
JUST ANOTHER COG IN THE MACHINE.
I WANTED TO TEAR IT ALL DOWN SO PEOPLE COULD BUILD SOMETHING DECENT IN ITS PLACE --
-- AND NOW I'M HELPING TO KEEP IT ALL RUNNING INSTEAD.
I'VE NEVER UNDERSTOOD WHAT MADE YOU SO REBELLIOUS.
I TRIED TO TEACH YOU HOW TO FIT IN. BUT YOU NEVER WANTED TO LISTEN.
WHY YOU ALWAYS MADE THINGS SO HARD ON YOURSELF, I'LL NEVER KNOW...
YOU WANNA KNOW WHY?
YOU REALLY WANNA KNOW?
I'LL TELL YOU.
BECAUSE ANY AMOUNT OF GRIEF WAS WORTH NOT ENDING UP LIKE YOU.

SIGH
I USED TO THINK IT WAS HOW YOU WERE BORN.
YOUR MOTHER WANTED TO CARRY YOU HERSELF, BUT I INSISTED WE HIRE A SURROGATE.
PEOPLE WOULD TALK, OTHERWISE.
THINK WE COULDN'T AFFORD IT, YOU KNOW.

I... REMEMBER.. A WOMAN... WHEN I WAS SMALL... YOU DIDN'T WANT ME TO SEE HER...

SHE TURNED OUT TO BE... DIFFICULT. WOULDN'T FOLLOW THE RULES, TRIED TO VISIT YOU FOR YEARS.
EVEN THOUGH SHE HAD NO GENETIC CONTRIBUTION, I'VE LONG THOUGHT THAT SHE'D... TAINTED YOU, SOMEHOW.

YOU'RE PROUD OF ME?!
FOR GIVING UP EVERYTHING I EVER BELIEVED IN? FOR SELLING OUT?!
NO, IT'S NOT BECAUSE OF ANYTHING I'VE DONE, ANYTHING I'VE ACCOMPLISHED --
-- BUT BECAUSE I'VE GOT THIS THING.
AN ALL-PURPOSE EXCUSE TO STEP ON ANYBODY THAT GETS IN MY WAY.
I'M THE BIG MAN THAT YOU'LL NEVER BE.
I THOUGHT MAYBE IT'D BE DIFFERENT. SOMEHOW, BUT NOTHING'S CHANGED.
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED.
YOU'RE JUST... SMALLER.

ARE YOU READY, NEURODANCER?
I WAS BORN READY, KABAL.
I CAN SURF DATA ALL DAY.
MATRIX INTERFACE ONLINE.
LET'S DO IT.
ALL RIGHT. TRACE THE INFLOW TO THE WEB DIRECTORY...
WAIT...
MASSIVE TURBULENCE...
NETSTORM SHOCKWAVE!
NEVER SEEN A DATA SURGE THAT BIG BEFORE.
WHEREVER IT'S HEADED, I'M GLAD I'M NOT GONNA BE THERE...

PROMOTIONAL BROCHURE © 2077 THRILLSVILLE, INC
Welcome to the place where impossible dreams become everyday reality, through the holographic miracle of VirtuRama™!
Experience the drama of offworld survival in our Mars Colony Massacre Extravaganza --
-- relive the legendary action-packed slugfests of the Age of Heroes --
-- control the destinies of the Ancient Greeks in our Mount Olympus Playground of the Gods --
-- or choose from the dozens of other worlds of adventure awaiting you!
THRILLSVILLE
HEY.
SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT HERE... THE ENVIRONMENT PARAMETERS ARE BEING RE-WRITTEN FROM OUTSIDE THE MAINFRAME!
AND IT GETS WORSE -- THE SAFETY INTERLOCKS HAVE BEEN DISABLED!
Oh MY LORD...
DEAR SWEET ELVIS... THE NEW PROGRAMS...

"THERE'S GONNA BE THE DEVIL TO PAY..."
AGE OF
NEXT:
CHRONIC PARK
THRILLSYKLE

MACHINE LANGUAGE

Joey Cavalieri
Editor

Lia Pelosi
Assistant Editor

c/o Marvel Comics
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

Out Of My Head

Yeah, well, as of this writing, incompetent Overnight has yet to deliver us Ashley Wood's stunning artwork for last issue, so not only has James Daly done a tremendous job on this issue, he had to do some uncredited reconstruction work from Ashley's pencils on last month's offering, as well! Can you tell which are Ash's and which are Jim's? No, this isn't a contest, 'cause we forgot the answer. We'd just as soon that the last six weeks remain in a dim haze.

Beyond that, how do you like us so far? Whaddaya think, all you Net naysayers who thought that a new administration was only gonna mean trouble? We fought courier services, customs, and the L.A flood for these two issues, so you must have an opinion.

Dear GR 2099ers,

Long time reader, first time writer. I have two questions for you. Not the usual "Does Zero have the Spirit of Vengeance?" or "Is that Hellfire on his head?" Maybe you can help.

Before reading your fine comic, I read X-MEN 2099. It proved a little stale, so I dumped it. Anyway, there was this character called The Driver; in X-MEN 2099 #13, he revealed his origin. He worked with MUSE. That is, until the government sabotaged him. I'll let TD finish the story.

"By all rights, I should have died another mutant sympathizer eliminated by authority of the genetic purity mandate. But I was rescued by mysterious benefactors who repaired my body and delivered my soul. To this end, they rewired my nervous system so I was connected with the car they provided—the Nitroburn. For this new life, I was given a new purpose by my anonymous saviors—to save mutant-kind from extinction by bringing them here."

Let's see, cybernetic attachments, state of the art vehicle, "mysterious benefactors"? Could it be that the Ghostworks were behind the Driver? He ended up failing miserably in his task, as just about all fare runners do. Did the Ghostworks exist all those years ago? Well?

So, Zero's going to be Sheriff of Transverse City, thanks to Doom. Five to one says this doesn't work for long. Zero's a rebel. He's been against the system since Day One. Now he is the authority? I don't think so. Instead of having GR use this authority to really mess with the common criminals, have him struggle with his new position in the socio-political food chain. It'd be far more interesting than the usual slugfests.

Jason Borelli
Staten Island, NY

Doom rewired GR to make him a tad more tractable. As for your speculation regarding the Ghostworks... try not to spread this rumor 'round yet, huh, Jason?

Dear GR 2099,

I just got done reading GHOST RIDER #10 and #11. They were great! This Coda guy is great. I can't wait to see him and GR fight. I like this GR better than the present-day version. I do have a couple of questions:

1. What does the Ghostworks have in store for GR?

2. What is the second phase they were talking about?

3. What weapons does GR have? Will he get any more?

That's all I have to say for now. So until GR cloaks himself as David Letterman, for his own late night show. Make Mine Marvel 2099.

Jeremy Woosley
Morristown, IN

GR as Letterman? Now that's Joey's idea of a good book! But seriously, as for your questions: 1 & 2. We'll let the Ghostworks' plans play themselves out, rather than deal with them here. 3. A cute smile and his charming personality are all that GR needs to get by!

Dear Ghostwriters,

GR 2099 is awesome. In fact, it's so awesome that it's the only Marvel comic I get these days. I mostly read manga now. For its first year I'd say it was the best American comic ever done. The art was awesome, the story had intelligence and a lot of the predictions I'd made came to pass. In issue #1, the Ghostworks entities would not want Zero telling of their existence.

The only minor quibble I had was that GR was supposed to be improving the world and all he did was fight one tech monster after another. I hope now he will get on with his program.

But with issue #13, I started having problems. The art went from awesome to awful. Also, I only read GR 2099 from Marvel. I don't read any of the other 2099 titles, nor do I plan to, so I know nothing of Doom or his takeover.

Please make allowances for those of us that only read GR 2099 and keep us informed of what we need to know in order to follow the series.

I have high hopes for GR 2099. Maybe Zero will finally get something through his thick head and stop acting like a hammer, as Coda referred to him.

By the way, when Coda slagged Zero, I almost fainted. I hadn't seen that coming. Touche!

Now some questions:

1. What is the energy projector weapon on Zero's forearm? We saw it when he fought the police SWAT unit.

2. How does Zero get his bike back?

3. How did Zero know Coda's name?

4. How did Coda have higher tech weapons than GR if GR is the highest tech?

5. When will we see that the figure shown escaping from the Ghostworks was a backup copy of Zero, trying to get word of Ghostworks' plans to GR?

6. Will you have Kylie cure Dr. Neon of his virginity?

7. Would you introduce a character that parodies Rush Limbaugh?

Russ Bullman
East Alton, IL

We hope you enjoy Ashley Wood's art now that he's the regular artist, Russ. As for your not reading the other 2099 titles, that's the beauty of our "event": you don't have to. But if you like GR 2099 a lot, we suggest humbly that you might find DOOM 2099 worthy of your attention...especially if you start with #29. It's got the same kind of stuff you've grown to expect here. As for your questions, they'll mostly be cleared up when Coda returns!

Next Issue

"Cthonic Park!" And, if it's successful, we'll follow up with "The Making of Cthonic Park!" And "The Making of the Making of..."